

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Julianna Moreno, a senior at San Benito High School, is the winner of the local division of the 27th annual Congressional Art Competition. Her painting, titled "Flower Girl," bested 29 other entries at a Wednesday reception and judging in Watsonville.

Moreno wins three roundtrip tickets to Washington to attend a June 25 reception and a \$5,000 renewable scholarship from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Her painting will also be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for a year.

"Every year, this art contest shows me just how talented our Central Coast students are," said Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel). "Art is such an important part of education and I'm proud that even from Washington I can have some small role in encouraging these budding young artists."

Second place honors went to Harbor High School senior Rachel Byers. Her work, "Evanzeze II," will hang in Rep. Farr's Washington office for a year. Third place honors went to Santa Cruz Waldorf High School freshman Molly Brown, whose work, "Self Portrait and Dictionary," will be displayed in Rep. Farr's Santa Cruz district office.

This year, 14 schools in California's 17th Congressional District were represented in the competition. A total of 30 pieces of art were submitted for judging by local artist Aaron Johnson. Watsonville Mayor Kimberly Petersen also attended the reception, and the airline tickets were presented to Moreno by Southwest Airlines representative Scott Yamasaki.

This is the 27th year for the contest, called "An Artistic Discovery." Students in communities across the country compete in the event, which is the brainchild of the Congressional Arts Caucus, of which Rep. Farr is a member.

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